

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of May 7 - May 11, 2007**

1. Win on Tax Duplication: Today the Montgomery County Council voted to support the County Executive's proposed amount of tax duplication rebate funds for Montgomery County municipalities for FY08. A proposal was on the table to reduce the funding amount by up to \$643,000, a proposal that could have meant \$273,000 in less revenue for the City of Takoma Park in the coming fiscal year. Councilmembers Andrews, Elrich, Ervin, Floreen, Knapp, Leventhal and Trachtenberg voted to support the County Executive's proposal, while Council President Praisner voted against the motion. Councilmember Berliner was absent. Mayor Kathy Porter of Takoma Park and Mayor Sidney Katz of Gaithersburg spoke on behalf of the municipalities. The significant work by municipal officials, several County Councilmembers and many Takoma Park residents paid off. Although the vote was 7 to 1, the position of a number of County Councilmembers was not known until the vote occurred. Thanks to all who helped on this critical effort! *(Community & Government Liaison)*

2. Chief's Meetings and Activities: On May 9, Chief Ricucci testified before the Montgomery County Council regarding funding for the CSAFE initiative. On May 10, he spoke at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority Semi-Annual Membership meeting. Also on the 10th, the Chief was interviewed by Chris Gordon, Channel 4 news regarding pedestrian safety. On May 11, the Chief will attend the Montgomery County Department of Police Memorial Service at the Montgomery County Public Service Training Academy. Also on this date, the Chief will represent the agency at the retirement celebration for Chief Mary Ann Viverette, Gaithersburg City Police Department. *(Police)*

3. Officers in Training: From May 6 to 11, Lt. Cipperly attended the Law Enforcement Executive Development School in Ocean City. On May 8, Dispatcher Angelina Guarini, Cpl. Andrew John, Cpl. Greg Wolff, Pfc. Joseph Butler, Pvt. David Quante, Diana Dean and Roslyn Thompkins attended The Defensive Driving Training Seminar sponsored by the Local Government Insurance Trust and held in the Azalea room. During this week, all members of the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Division and members of the Command Staff participated in biannual firearms qualification and training at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Facility in Sykesville. *(Police)*

4. New Assignments: Congratulations goes to Dispatcher Angelina Guarini for her promotion to Senior Communications Dispatcher effective 05-14. She will be responsible for the general supervision of the Communications Division. The newly formed Tactical Enforcement Unit under the supervision of Det./Cpl John, went into service on 05-07. *(Police)*

5. Arrest: On May 10, investigators charged Michael Anthony Lee of Capitol Heights, Maryland with carrying a concealed deadly weapon and 1st Degree Assault in connection with a stabbing that occurred in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue on May 10. *(Police)*

6. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 3, 4, & 6): Officers conducted at least 80 traffic stops this week, 69 of which ended in written citations. One impound also resulted from these stops. More than half of the stops were made on Carroll, Flower, New Hampshire Avenue's and Piney Branch Road. *(Police)*

7. First Time Home Buyer Seminar (City-wide): The City will be conducting a First Time Home Buyer Seminar on Saturday, May 19, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. For further information or to register for the seminar, please call Linda Walker at 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Poetry Reading - Thursday May 17 (City-wide): Featured at this month's reading are local poets Tom Alderson, Ryan Holman, and Laura Lauth. The reading will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. The series is sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission and Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. New Hampshire Avenue Small Business Development (Wards 2, 3 and 6): HCD staff, partnering with the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development (DED), met for the first time on a one-on-one basis with restaurants along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. These outreach efforts will continue as HCD and DED staff meet with local businesses twice a month to offer assistance with business strategy, development, financing and growth. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Small-Scale Commercial Area Improvements (City-Wide): Public review of recommendations for the City's commercial areas, developed during the Master Plan workshops conducted by HCD staff, originally scheduled for Monday, May 14, has been rescheduled for later in June to allow for additional time for Staff to complete its review of the various recommendations. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study (Wards 2, 3 and 6): The neighborhood traffic calming study - to be conducted in the Long Branch-Sligo (Between the Creeks), New Hampshire Gardens, and Pinecrest neighborhoods - will begin next week. Additional information on the project will be provided as the study progresses. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Old Takoma Development (Wards 1 & 3): The Montgomery Planning Board Development Review Committee will conduct its staff review of this project - an commercial infill building located at the corner of Eastern and Laurel Avenue - will be held on Tuesday, May 29th. The review, scheduled to begin at 11:20am, will be held at the Montgomery Regional Office (8787 Spring Street, Silver Spring). The meeting is open to the public though the public may not participate in the discussion. The City participates in this meeting as an agency. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. NEW! Snapshots in May: May edition of Snapshots is now available for on-line viewing. Features include a Community Policing segment on gun safety, entitled "Shots Fired"; highlights from the Takoma Adventist School's Earth Day community cleanup; the Art Enables exhibit from the Community Center, and Musical Highlights from Tastes of Takoma. Please see the link at www.takomaparkmd.gov. *(City TV)*

14. City TV Press Box: City TV crews covered the Ward Four Walking Council meeting last Saturday, May 5, and the Soap Box Derby on Sunday, May 6, as well as the Governor's visit to Montgomery College on Thursday May 9. On Saturday, May 12, the Takoma Foundation's Azalea Awards will be telecast live on City TV 13. *(City TV)*

15. **Street Restoration (Ward 2):** Elm Avenue from Ethan Allen Avenue to Heather Avenue and Linden Circle were milled on Thursday in preparation for paving Friday and Monday. *(Public Works)*

16. **Tree Planting (Ward 4):** The Arborist had 33 trees planted around the Municipal Building and along Maple Avenue this week. *(Public Works)*

17. **Stormwater Maintenance:** The City contractor has completed TV inspection and cleaning in sub basin 5 and will be moving to sub basin 2 in the next few weeks. *(Public Works)*

18. **Rain Barrel Workshop:** The workshop coordinated and run by the Committee on the Environment last Sunday was a success. Forty barrels were constructed and have made their way to good homes. *(Public Works)*